



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB®

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: October 21, 2025

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THE NOSE KNOWS: WINNERS OF THE INAUGURAL AKC SCENT WORK MASTER NATIONAL ANNOUNCED



Photo Credit: Monique Krouse © AKC

New York, NY- The American Kennel Club (AKC®), a not-for-profit organization that is the world's largest registry of purebred and mixed-breed dogs, and a leading voice for canine welfare and responsible ownership, is excited to announce the winners of the inaugural AKC Scent Work Master National. The event is the first of its kind for the American Kennel Club, and the winner has received the prefix "SWNC" and is known as the Scent Work Master National Champion.

Nearly 200 dogs from more than 40 states representing 66 breeds gathered for the first national Scent Work event on October 12-14, 2025, at the Roberts Centre in Wilmington, OH. The competition was held in a three-day format. The first two days were the Preliminary rounds and the third day the Final. Day 1 (Preliminary): All dogs were tested on all four elements – Container, Buried, Interior and Exterior at the Master level. Search time was 2 minutes for each of the elements. Day 2 (Preliminary): All dogs were tested on three elements – Buried, Interior and Exterior at the Master level. Search time was again 2 minutes for each of the elements. The top 100 dogs determined by highest combined daily scores advanced to Day 3 (Finals) where they were tested on a combination of elements together in multiple search areas.

“Congratulations to all of the competitors at the very first AKC Scent Work Master National,” said Caroline Murphy, AKC Director of Performance Events. “Watching these dogs at work was nothing short of incredible. We look forward to continuing this exciting competition.”

2025 AKC Scent Work Master National Winners

AKC Scent Work Master National Champion

SWNC Rhubarb Gelotte ACT2J SWD SWME DM CGCA CGCU TKP, a female Vizsla known as “Rhubarb,” owned by Leigh Gelotte

Reserve Master National Champion

Winthropbigmac HSAds HSDs HXAds HXBd OA OAJ XF SWD SWM CGC TKI, a male Border Collie known as “Big Mac,” owned by Robin Ford

3rd Place

Blitzen's Blue Moon NF BCAT ACT2J SWD SWM SCME SBME DM DSA HDJ TKP FTI, a female Border Collie known as “Luna,” owned by Sandy Fuller

4th Place

Banyu SWD SWME SHDEE SHDM CGCA TKA FITG FTI, a male All-American Dog known as “Banyu,” owned by Lenora Volk

For more information about AKC Scent Work, visit <https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-scent-work/>.

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About the American Kennel Club

Founded in 1884, the American Kennel Club is a not-for-profit organization which maintains the largest registry of purebred dogs in the world and oversees the sport of purebred dogs in the United States. The AKC is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. Along with its more than 4,900 licensed and member clubs and its affiliated organizations, the AKC advocates for the purebred dog as a family companion, advances canine health and well-being, works to protect the rights of all dog owners and promotes responsible dog ownership. More than 26,000 competitions for AKC-registered purebred and mixed breed dogs are held under AKC rules and regulations each year including conformation, agility, obedience, rally, tracking, herding, lure coursing, coonhound events, scent work, hunt tests, field and earthdog tests.

Affiliate AKC organizations include the AKC Humane Fund, AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Reunite, the AKC Museum of the Dog, and the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank. For more information, visit www.akc.org.

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